

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Korea/USSR

SUBJECT Soviet Organizations in Pyongyang

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1. USSR Embassy

Ambassador: Ferenti Pavich Shyryev

Secretaries: First, Polyushenko
Second, Trukin

Other personnel, exact positions undetermined:

Petrushov, believed to be an English linguist.

Morozov, believed to be chief of the Education Section.

Proshchenko, believed to be chief of the Secretariat.

Nikitin, believed to be OKR counter-intelligence representative; he was frequently seen in public, while other members of the staff were more or less confined to the embassy.

Layenko, believed to be OKR counter-intelligence representative and liaison man between the embassy and Colonel Rodyagin, adviser to the North Korean Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

2. USSR Consulate

Consul General: Nikolai Danilovich Predybaile, age 49; he is also the local Communist Party organizer (Partorg).

Undetermined position: Ustunov, age 26, reportedly arrived from Moscow in September 1950.

3. Torgpredstvo (USSR Trade Representation)

Director: Trusev, age about 47.

Deputy: Mikhail Timofeyevich Serlov, age 46.

Drivers: Ivan, Ivanovich Krivenko, age about 50, former major in the Soviet Army Tank Corps, believed to be directly linked with MGB Moscow for the purpose of reporting on Trusev's activities and behavior.

Department heads:

Chief bookkeeper: Vladimir Vasil'yevich Semachin, age 47, who spent many years in Sinkiang.

Imports (from USSR): Gubanov, age about 35.

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Exports (to USSR): Golovchanski, age about 45, veteran of the Soviet Army Tank Corps; right arm missing, presumably lost in World War II.

Material Inspector: (Tovarshchik): Alim, age about 42, and Ivleva, age about 37.

Legal Section: Bukreyev, age about 30.

Administrative and Supply Section (AKhO): Petraschenko, age about 37.

Secret Section (Selsretmaya Chast): Konstantin Shlyrov, age 27; his wife also resided in Pyongyang.

Branch managers: Wonsam Zotov, age about 37.
Chongjin: Mikhailchenko, age about 35.
Namyang-Pumen: Kovalenko, age 40.
Hamhung-Hungnam: Panchenko, age about 56.

The main office of Torgpredstvo in Pyongyang had its own cipher communications system with Moscow, both by telephone and radio; there was also a direct telephone line to Hungnam. The communications office was in the main office building (Kamakura Building) near Songgyo-ri Bridge, on the third floor of the west wing.

Dalveshtorg (Far East Foreign Trade Agency), a sub-division of Torgpredstvo, was managed by Serikov, deputy director of Torgpredstvo.

4. Mezhkniga (International Book Agency)

Honorary manager: Vladimir Vasilievich Semekhin.
Executive manager: Varvara Ivanovna Golovina, age 36.

This agency was responsible for distributing Soviet books, periodicals, newspapers, and other printed matter in both Russian and Korean for propaganda purposes.

5. VOKS (All-Union Society of Cultural Relations)

The principal aims of this organization were to promote Soviet culture through the medium of various types of theatrical presentations. Personnel are unknown.

6. TASS (News Agency)

The manager was Kornilov; his wife was also in Pyongyang. Another employee, of unknown status, was Kotov, whose wife was also in Pyongyang.

7. Sovetski Vestnik (Soviet Courier)

This Russian-language newspaper was typed (possibly mimeographed) and distributed through MESKOM; its circulation is unknown. The editor, Kadulin, age about 57, was a lieutenant colonel in the 25 Army during the Soviet occupation, assigned to editing the paper. He remained in the same position as a civilian when the Soviet forces withdrew.

8. Mortrans (Soviet-Korean Marine Transport)

Director: Viktor Ivanovich Nutsyov, age 44.
Deputy director: Kolbunov.

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Chief Bookkeeper: Efim Samoilovich Basin, age 50.
 Supply Section: Georgi Nikolayevich Roganov, age 50, an electrical engineer.
 Personnel Section: Gusev, age about 53.

Branch managers: Wonsan, Borisov, age about 60, former officer in the Tsarist army; during World War II reportedly stationed, in an unknown capacity, on Cape Berling with an unidentified Soviet unit assisting the air lift from Alaska to the USSR.
 Chongjin, Kurochkin, age about 53.
 Hungnam, Chetverikov, age about 42.

9. Tovarnyye Bank (Foreign Trade Bank)

Director unknown; deputy director, Nikolai Petrovich Torentov, age about 60.

10. Soybol'nitsa (Soviet Hospital)

Chief of staff: Colonel Rosherski, age 44.

11. Soyshkola (Soviet Middle School, to tenth grade)

Principal: Radin, age 46.

12. Morybnost (Ministry of Marine Provinces)

Director: Pavel Iezarevich Shapshelovich, age 44.

Deputy : Mikhail Bakuhetski, age 32; departed to the USSR in 1949 for living with a White Russian girl.

This organization is primarily engaged in construction of Korean labor for the fishing industry in Kamchatka, Sakhalin, and other areas along the coast of the Maritime Provinces.

13. MESTKOM (performs the functions of the USSR Trade Union)

Chairman: Boris Ivanovich Smirnov, age 53, who maintained social control of the members of the Soviet colony and distributed the Russian language newspaper.

14. Soykinoexport (Soviet Film Export Agency)

Director: Boris Ivanovich Smirnov.

This agency had its own movie theatres throughout the larger cities of North Korea. It also supervised distribution of Soviet films to Korean theatres.

15. SOKAVA (Soviet Korean Air Association)

Director: Husev, age about 53.

Preparations to establish this association were begun in January or February 1950 but operations were not under way until April. Its function was air passenger transportation for Koreans and Soviets, using twenty C-47 planes manned by Soviet crews. Pyongyang Central Airfield was the base of operations; the main office was located in the former U.S. liaison officer's house.

Flights were made from Pyongyang to Chongjin, Vladivostok, Dairen, Wonsan, Hamhung, and Mukden. Fares were very low, as for example, 1,500 won to

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Chongjin; 2,500 won to Vladivostok; and 1,500 won to Dairen. It was conjectured that the fares were set in anticipation of the "liberation" of South Korea, when, with surface transport disrupted, SOKAVA would be able immediately to provide cheap and attractive transportation to Seoul, Taegu, and Pusan, thus advancing the prestige of the USSR.

When the Pyongyang airfield was bombed on 27 June 1950, eighteen of the twenty SOKAVA planes were destroyed and twelve Soviet citizens were killed.

16. Churin and Company (Department Store)***

* ☐ Comment. Personnel previously reported include the following:

Kovalenko: Ivan G. Kovalenko was formerly with Torgpredstvo in Canton and Lksporkhleb in Hong Kong; he left for North Korea in summer 1949. Positive identification is not possible, however.

Moiseyev: President of Aortrans; ☐ Previously reported as First Secretary of the embassy in Pyongyang, in March 1950.

Shtykov: Sometimes spelled Shtikov, frequently reported for his activities in North Korea; see also the XXIV Corps list, Soviet Personalities in North Korea.

Tunkin: Gregori Ivanovich Tunkin, according to the XXIV Corps list, Soviet Personalities in North Korea, is a high-ranking career diplomat. In 1945 he held, and possibly still holds, position of Chief of the Far Eastern Division of the Soviet foreign office. Active in Korea as the ranking Soviet civilian delegate on the Joint US-USSR Commission, and as charge d'affaires and counsellor of the Soviet embassy in 1948. Earlier, his name appeared in the report of the Soviet spy case of the Royal Commission in Canada, where he was counsellor in 1942, and charge d'affaires in 1944, at Soviet embassy in Ottawa.

** ☐ Comment. Otdel Kontr Razvedki (counter intelligence section).

*** ☐ Comment. Churin and Company is discussed separately ☐

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